

Largest Organization in Nation Devoted Exclusively to Manufacture of Mining Machinery Located in City of Fairmont

FAIRMONT MINING MACHINE CO. BIG FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT RESOURCES OF FAIRMONT AND COUNTY

Local Concern Owns Valuable Patents and Employs Ablest Men.

The strongest organization in America devoted to the manufacture of mine equipment, exclusively the Fairmont Mining Machinery Company is located in this city. It is one of the large factors in the development of the resources of the city and the surrounding country, so richly endowed with nature's most valued contributions to the comfort and well-being of the race.

The Fairmont Mining Machinery Co. has a paid-in capital of a million and a half dollars, controls large quantities of raw materials, owns valuable patents and employs the ablest men to be found in all departments which embrace designing, manufacturing, installing, shipping and exporting. In the last connection, exports of the company go as far as Japan, with whose industrial enterprises large business is done.

The company's plant, the most complete of its kind in America, covers about six acres. In normal times some 400 skilled workers are employed and at present a payroll of between \$30,000 and \$35,000 monthly is distributed.

All types of mining machinery and equipment, including tipples and conveying equipment are designed, manufactured and erected, the company being also contractors on such construction at the mines, wherever they may be. All the known modern mining apparatus is manufactured from the very best materials obtainable and at the lowest costs consistent with the great value each item possesses.

The Fairmont Mining Machinery Co. is owned by B. H. Linder, a man of Chicago, president and president also of the Austin Mining Machinery Co. of Chicago. O. A. Seyferth, vice president and general manager, and L. Sargeant, manager.

O. A. Seyferth, before coming to Fairmont, was secretary and treasurer of the Toledo Bridge and Iron Co., of Toledo, Ohio. He is a young man, about 30 years old, and one of the most remarkable

young men in American industry today. Born in Michigan he was educated in the public schools of that state and at the age of 14 began his apprenticeship for machinist, with the Oliver Machine Co. He added to his education by taking a course in accounting at Grand Rapids. Then he launched himself in the industrial world in which his rise, due to inherent ability and energy characterized by hard work, has been little short of phenomenal.

The Austin company, of which the president of this company is president also, has a plant at Muskegon, Mich., in which young Seyferth endeavored to secure a position in the accounting department. There being no place there for him he determined to make a place in that department for himself and to reach and possess it. He did it. He started at the bottom of the ladder with the Austin company, taking a job as time keeper with the firm, and working his way upward.

Afterward Mr. Seyferth went to the investment banking firm of Bonbright & Co. New York, where he added much to the sum of business knowledge gained at Muskegon.

Today Mr. Seyferth is holding down a position that would be considered an accomplishment for an executive many years his senior. He is filling most capably an executive office that most men at 50 would still be looking toward as a goal worth while. Mr. Seyferth owes his present high position to the way in which he lives up to his motto: "Do it, and do it now."

He is president of the Manufacturers Association of Fairmont and was largely instrumental in its organization. He is a member of the Country Club. He is also a director of the Y. M. C. A. and a member of the Rotary Club. His business career is summed up in the one word—"service." He is looking toward the realization of a greater Fairmont and is working consistently in that direction.

Mr. Seyferth's success is due to his wonderful personality. He is one who looks direct in the eye when he talks and he carries conviction. He is big in mind and big in heart as well as big in stature and like big men is always ready with the helping hand.

GOLDEN BROS. HAVE LARGE STORE HERE

Though they have been engaged in business at their corner—"the Golden Corner"—where Madison crosses main street, the Golden Brothers, present owners of the department store bearing their name have made the location famous for its high grade goods, its fair dealing and its reasonable prices. This fame is steadily extending. The store is a cashmere, one easily remembered, and being backed up by courteous service, spreads easily.

The store is a large and commodious one, well appointed throughout, and well stocked with everything in dry goods, notions, toilet goods, novelties, haberdashery, lingerie, hosiery—in fact, everything that the up-to-date department store carries. The three stories of the building, and the basement are used for the handling of the large volume of business enjoyed. Splendid displays are made, attentive and prompt service is given and the employees find pleasure in showing goods and answering the questions of all. Thirty-six people are employed in the store and each one of them is a keen interest in the business.

All strive to carry fully into effect the application of the Golden Rule to the business. The proprietors, who acquired in January of 1921 from A. M. Harrison, are Julius and Israel Golden, of Russia, but naturalized American citizens, and both are veterans of the World War, in which they served under the Stars and Stripes. They are strong men in carrying into effect the things they plan to do and in boosting and aiding in a material way in the development of the community in which they have settled and which they plan to make their home—the city of Fairmont.

A. M. KNIGHT EXPERT DECORATOR OF CITY

The interior of the home office building, or business house is as essential as to appearance as its foundation is as the basis for the construction of the house. The interior of colors, the decorations, and arrangements mean so much not only to the occupants but make impressions on visitors that are never erased.

For the last quarter of a century, A. M. Knight has been recognized as Fairmont's leading expert on interior decorations, and he has built up a reputation built on judgment and experience which has meant much to his clients.

Among the recent decoration contracts which he has handled were the work on the Masonic Temple, H. J. Hartley's residence, C. D. Robinson's residence, both the exterior and interior decorations, and hundreds of others during his long and valued career in the city.

Mr. Knight handles a complete line of fine wall paper, murals, decorations, picture framing, window shades, painters and artists supplies. He specializes in Lowe Brothers' paint, handling material for incrusta, burlap, Platic relief also.

This display room is attractive in the extreme, being filled with high class tapestry and other furnishings of an order which natural appeal to the artistic. Because of his extensive experience Mr. Knight is in a position to make suggestions as to decorations which are invaluable to home-builders and his pleasant, accommodating spirit has won him many friends.

He is a man of high standing, being a member of the Shrine, and also a Knight of Pythias. He is an exponent of the Fairmont, declaring that the city needs additional capital to develop its natural resources.

MIDDLETOWN OF PIONEER TIME IS FAIRMONT TODAY

Condemned in 1819 to Remain Village, Refuses Fate and Is Now Large City.

ITS GROWTH IS RAPID

Located in Heart of Great Coal Field With Many Natural Advantages.

(Editor's Note: The author of this article makes acknowledgment of his indebtedness to Myers' History of West Virginia for much of the information contained herein.)

Middletown—now Fairmont—was established and laid out in 1819 on the farm of Boaz Fleming. It was built on a hill overlooking the Monongahela River.

It has been said that when the early citizens of this city were looking about for a town site the place on which Fairmont now stands was selected because it "was considered by them roughest and poorest and least adapted to farming purposes and having little idea that the new town would ever be more than a small hamlet."

It was called Middletown because it lay midway between Clarksburg and Morgantown and served as a stopping place for travelers going to and from between these two points.

"At that time," says Dunnington's History of Marion County, "much of Middletown was a laurel thicket, the only house being a log cabin occupied by Mr. Fleming, which stood near the corner of Jefferson street and Decatur alley. The first house built after the laying off of the town was by Mr. Samuel Jackson, father of Oliver and James R. Jackson. The first child born in Middletown was E. M. Conway."

In 1842 Marion County was formed. Middletown was made the county seat and shortly afterwards the name was changed to Fairmont. The first county court was held April 4, 1843 William C. Haymond was chosen the first prosecuting attorney and Benjamin J. Brice, the first sheriff of the county.

The jail was a one-story log house, built in the manner of an Indian fort and located on Washington street where the residence of William E. Hough was built later. The first courthouse cost \$3,150.75 and was considered a fine building when it was completed. Improvements later—in 1877—brought the total cost to \$8,000. Since that time, of course, the old court house was given away to a new saw mill, and the new structure, one of the finest buildings of its kind in the state, Thomas S. Haymond and John S. Clayton were the first representatives of the county in the House of Delegates and William G. Wiley in the Senate.

Mr. Wiley was a resident of this county and represented Monongalia, Preston and Randolph counties as well. It is related of him that on one occasion he attended the Legislature at Richmond dressed in blue linen breeches and brown linen hunting shirt.

Palatine which is now a part of Fairmont was established in 1838. It was located upon land purchased from Daniel and John Paulsley, the sons of Jacob Paulsley who had moved on the land in 1793.

B. & O. Railroad Finished
The completion of the B. & O. Railroad to Fairmont, June 23, 1832, marked an important epoch in the history of the town and the occasion was duly celebrated. The president and directors of the company, together with a large number of prominent men from Baltimore, Cumberland, Wheeling,

Martinsburg and others cities, being present.

During the same year the suspension bridge crossed the Monongahela River and connecting Fairmont with Palatine was completed at a cost of about \$30,000.

The first church organization in which is now Marion County took place in the year 1815, in a barn on the farm of Asa Hall, near Barnesville, under the direction of a Presbyterian minister. Seven years later the same organization erected a frame church on Jefferson street, Fairmont, opposite the old Mountain City House. Then followed a Methodist Protestant Church on Quincy street in 1834, and the Methodist Episcopal Church on Adams street. Now all the principal church denominations are represented in Fairmont. The first steamboat to ascend the Monongahela River as far as Fairmont was the "Globe" on February 11, 1850. At various times since that date and previous to the building of dams and locks, the "Globe," the "Thomas P. Ray" and other small boats reached Fairmont, but their arrivals were dependent upon temporary rises in the river and no pretense of a schedule could be maintained.

The first banking firm in this city was the First National Bank of Fairmont organized October, 1853. The Mountain City Bank began business August 1, 1854. The third institution of this kind was the Farmers' Bank of Fairmont which opened in 1875.

First Paper Established
The Marion County pioneer was Fairmont's first newspaper. It was owned and edited by Lindsey Bogges who founded it in 1840. Later Fulton Cooper took charge of it. This paper was followed by W. D. Eyster's Baptist Record and in 1850 the Democratic Banner, edited and published by Daniel Morris, a former printer for the Baptist Record, saw the light of day.

Other papers following this period were the True Virginian and the Trans-Allegheny Adventure, the Fairmont Republican, the Methodist Protestant Sentinel, the Fairmont National and the Vedette.

The last named paper was the only one to survive the test of time. It was founded in 1866, by J. N. Boyd. It was sold later to J. Dillion who changed its name to The West Virginian, under which name it has been published successfully since that time.

With the suspension of the True Virginian (the last part of the name has worn off in the course of time, the Democrats of the county were left without an organ and consequently a lively underground campaign and gave way to the Fairmont Index.

In April 1875 fire destroyed the office and files of the True Virginian and destroyed most of the property of the Index National as the Democratic paper was now known. Fairmont's papers now are the Fairmont Times, The West Virginian and the Fairmont Press (weekly).

Today Fairmont, with a population of more than 17,000 is one of the leading industrial cities of West Virginia. It has factories and plants of all kinds, which lies the health of the city.

Plants are located here which none can excel in efficiency or capacity. Prominent among local industries are the Owens Bottle Works, the Monongahela Glass Co., the Fairmont Mining Machine Co., the Consolidation Coal Co., the West Virginia Metal Products Corporation, the Domestic Coke Corporation, the Helmick Foundry & Machine Co., the West Box Co., the Barnsville Manufacturing Co., the Hutchinson Coal Co., the Jamison Coal Co., the Fairmont Ice Co., and A. B. Knight's Machine Shop.

Not far from the city is a good drainage which, together with the city's elevated position, gives Fairmont one of the most salubrious and most healthful locations possessed by the cities of West Virginia.

Though located in the heart of a great coal field, the city is set apart from the mine openings and thus escapes the smoke, dust and every feature of expense that is incident to mining operations other than the business that accompanies such operations. Active coal mining began here about 1870.

PEACOCK PARK NEW ADDITION TO CITY

The growth of Fairmont as a home owning city has been greatly accentuated in the last year through the development of Peacock Park. It is a high class residential section and was put on the market July 1 of last year.

The property consists of about forty acres of splendidly located property on the city's edge with paved streets and all other modern improvements. It has been laid out in home sites along the modern plans for residential suburbs, the plots being of generous size, 60 by 150 feet being the average size.

The beautiful views obtained from all parts of this property can only be appreciated by seeing it. The air is pure and clear, and there is no smoke from coal mines or coke ovens.

The building restrictions are such that no purchaser need be afraid that his neighbor will erect unsightly buildings, or place a home out of line with the general appearance of the neighborhood.

Attractiveness A good many people have already been offered a good deal more for their lots than they paid for them but have refused to sell. The officers of the company are Samuele Miller, president; Robert Ritchie, vice-pres., and J. Frank Ritchie, secretary-treasurer.

Clarence D. Robinson Leader in Affairs of Community

Progressive Developer



CLARENCE D. ROBINSON

WILSON CLAIMS FAIRMONT IDEAL SCHOOL SECTION

People Here Believe in Local Schools, Declares Head of the District.

Within a short time O. G. Wilson, superintendent of schools in the Fairmont Independent District, will soon turn in his 7th annual report to the board of education. The report will show some interesting facts and will demonstrate that Fairmont is moving forward along educational lines.

There are seven schools under the supervision of the Fairmont Independent District. They include five grades schools, one high school and one combination grade and high school. The schools are Butcher, Miller, Fleming, White, Barnes, Dunbar and the Fairmont High School.

The enrollment in the various schools on opening day last fall was as follows: Barnes 254, Butcher 299, Fleming 295, Miller 559, Fairmont High School 500, White 339, Dunbar 146. This makes a total of 2,392, which, with the 1,234 pupils in the East Side schools makes a grand total of 3,626.

The yearly cost of the schools, including capital outlay, maintenance and every feature of expense is said to be about \$275,000. The great majority of this cost is taken care of by the people of this community in taxes, as only a little over \$6,000 is provided from other sources.

The school board of the district has followed a liberal policy in the matter of getting the best teachers, available to instruct the children in Fairmont, and during the time that Professor Wilson has been in control as superintendent he has had the cooperation of the members of the board, as he stated in his sixth annual report made last year.

During the last year a school nurse has been employed, maintaining a better health among the students and the results have been gratifying to those who were in favor of this progressive step along educational lines in this section.

Many Achievements

Among the achievements listed in the last report of the superintendent of schools in this section were the following:

1. The inauguration of the free textbook policy whereby pupils of the elementary schools may have the privileges of textbooks without cost to them.
2. The establishment of kindergarten. Fairmont is the first city in West Virginia to provide such instruction as a part of the public school system.
3. Establishment of two playgrounds for use during vacation time.
4. Plans accepted for securing a

gymnasium located near the Fairmont High School. (Work on this has been started.)

5. Provision for dental inspection for all pupils and expert dental care through the cooperation of the dental clinic.

6. Equipment provided for work in sheet metal at Fairmont High School.

7. Provisions for city teachers' institute as a substitute for attendance at the county teachers' institute.

Free Text Books

On October 21, 1920 an investigation was made to see how many of the pupils were making use of the free text book policy. The following was the result: Barnes School 235, Butcher 277, Fleming 216, Miller 399, White 331, Dunbar 101, making a total of 1,619. This has been materially increased since that time, however. Only 212 purchased their own books, or 11.6 per cent. If a book is marred by a pupil, he is required to pay a fine or purchase the book. The fines collected during the first year amounted to only \$14.27.

A big feature of the high school work is the lunch room conducted by the school where students may get a good lunch at a price that is far more reasonable than that for which they could get it any place save at their own homes. This feature of the school has been successful and has proved a great benefit to many.

There is a sliding scale in effect relative to the salaries of teachers, based on their experience, length of service and efficiency. It has worked out well, and has brought the highest class of teachers to the Fairmont territory.

Average Attendance

The daily average attendance in the schools last year is shown in the following report: Barnes School 220, Butcher 276, Fleming 246, Miller 566, White 307, Dunbar 146 and Fairmont High School 484 and Dunbar 135. These figures are based on the sixth annual report of the superintendent to the school board and are not for the year which has just closed.

Cost Per Capita

The per capita cost of education including the cost of instruction and not supervision is as follows:

Barnes \$41.78, Butcher \$44.09, Fleming \$47.64, Miller \$42.80, White \$38.77, high school \$100.45, Dunbar \$59.64. These figures are based on the enrollment in each school. The figure based on attendance varies slightly.

Manual training is a big feature of the work in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and in the high school where a great amount of good is accomplished in training the young folk along these lines. See Denham First Co. has created a great interest in the grades with prizes for the best bird boxes made.

Sewing, cooking and other arts falling under the general head of domestic science are taught for the benefit of the girls in the higher grades and in the high school. This has been found to be a popular and beneficial feature of school work. Those who have been invited to some of the dinners served by the girls in the high school, know what wonderful progress has been made.

In short, as it is put by Professor Wilson, "Fairmont is an excellent 'school community.' Every citizen and taxpayer believes in the schools. It is because the schools recognize the child as the unit to be served. The service can be given only when official policy is broadminded and liberal."

MANY PROJECTS HERE SPONSORED BY LOCAL BANKER

List of Enterprises Reads Like Biography in 'Who's Who in America'

It is always a pleasure to write about a successful man and there is something about success which makes us all enviously read about it. And when a man is called successful it is not necessarily meant that he has achieved a position of power in the financial world, although many people are prone to judge success by the standard of the dollar. Instead, it is held that success means the development of the man himself to the point where he becomes an agent of service to his fellow men, helping them to realize on their possibilities. Such a man has succeeded and his success is not the selfish one of an enlarged personal bank account, but must be measured in terms of the community, state and national bank account, and, more important still, capacity for and opportunity for larger enjoyment of life.

If modesty is a virtue, then Fairmont can proudly lay claim to her share of virtue, in the person of the genial subject of this sketch. While modesty and geniality is a part of the makeup of Clarence D. Robinson, other elements of character necessary to good leadership and citizenship are not lacking. Born in Fairmont August 2, 1872, he obtained his education from the local schools. At a very early age, he went into the employ of the B. & O. Railroad, where for a period of thirteen years, he strived to earn a decent livelihood for himself and family. He declared, and it is a time that he does not to his liking, and resigned his position as a telegraph operator, since which time he has been making history for Fairmont and fame for himself. He has been married and surely until today he is perhaps one of the biggest men in the little "empire" of West Virginia. A glance down the list of enterprises that he is interested in, and which he has sponsored, and fostered by him is just like reading from the "Who's Who in America."

There has never been a public move advanced for the upbuilding of Fairmont or its community, which hasn't had his support and influence. He was especially active in securing the million dollar bridge for Fairmont, one of the greatest assets that Fairmont has, and which will bring forward the present and future development of the city.

Jolly, brisk, kindly, with keen eyes and a skin which denotes a good digestion and a clear conscience, Mr. Robinson is a man whom it is a pleasure to meet, and whose vigorous personality stimulates the best faculties in one. He is no pessimist, no dyspeptic calamity, but a man who holds steadfastly to his belief that honest work brings honest reward, and that the only way to do things is to do them. He is well liked by his life long friends, and associates, and his own glory in his spunk, in his willingness to tackle any sort of a job.

Clarence D. Robinson merits the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens, for he has demonstrated his worth, and stands squarely with the progressive public-spirited citizens, giving to the cause of advancement and improvement the stimulus of his pugacity, and the best of his strength, moral, physical and financial.

So if one were to try to epitomize the life of Clarence D. Robinson, he would only say this: "He has served his community with his head, his heart, and with his hands, freely, loyally and well."

MORGAN & CO. SELLS WHOLESALE CANDIES

Morgan & Co., Inc., established in 1918, is one of the most widely known of Fairmont's group of wholesale houses. Its line is confectionery, and its stock consists of the finest sweets specialties of leading manufacturers. Among candy makers whose products are distributed by this company through parts of three states, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania are the Utopian and the Bostonian companies. Utopian package chocolates, famed for their purity and fineness, and Bostonian butters, lates, popovers, everywhere that they are known are specialties. Other high grade confections are included in the lines carried by Morgan & Co.

This enterprise, in its little more than three years existence has extended its trade area and has spread its reputation as a leader in the business activities of this city. The company is composed of R. A. Chambers, president and general manager, H. M. McCon, vice president and Mrs. Edna N. Chambers, secretary-treasurer. He is a believer in service as a prime requisite for success and is affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club, two live-wire organizations in which he is active.

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